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Letter dated 18 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of the Final Communiqué of the Meeting of the Committee of Ministers of the Southern African Development Community Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, which was held in Luanda on 17 and 18 December 2001, and request that it be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ismael A. **Gaspar Martins**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

02-22304 (E) 220102

Annex to the letter dated 18 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Final Communiqué of the meeting of the Committee of Ministers of the Southern African Development Community Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation
17-18 December 2001
Luanda, Angola

1. The meeting of the Committee of Ministers responsible for the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation was held in Luanda, Angola on 17-18 December 2001 under the chairpersonship of Hon. Dr. Leonardo Santos Simão, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Mozambique.

2. The meeting was attended by Ministers from the following Member States:

Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Permanent Secretaries led the delegations of Botswana and Swaziland while the High Commissioner of Seychelles to South Africa represented his country.

3. The meeting was officially opened by the Minister of Home Affairs of the Republic of Angola, Hon. Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos on behalf of the President of the Republic of Angola, His Excellency Jose Eduardo dos Santos. Mr. Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos stressed that terrorism, because of its motivations and effects, must always be considered a crime against humanity and must be fought worldwide according to international law. He noted that in the context of Angola, terrorism has manifested itself in the massacre of hundreds of innocent civilians and the kidnapping of children, particularly during the second half of 2001.

4. In his statement, the Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers for the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security, Hon. Dr. Leonardo Santos Simão, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Mozambique noted that this is the first integrated meeting of Ministers within the provisions of the SADC Protocol of Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation which aims at the promotion of regional peace and security.

5. In passing a Vote of Thanks, Hon. Prof. Philemon Sarungi, the Minister of Defence and National Service of the United Republic of Tanzania, representing the Deputy Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers for the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security commended the Government and people of Angola for their perseverance in the face of persistent threats of destabilization and aggression by UNITA-SAVIMBI.

6. The Ministers received briefings on the political situation and developments in the SADC region and noted that generally, the region enjoys relative peace and security except in the case of a few countries. The Ministers noted that the region remains seized of these issues and is collectively engaged in the management of these conflicts.

7. On Angola, the Ministers noted with satisfaction that relative peace now prevails as a result of the Government Peace Plan which is a combination of military, economic, political and social efforts. The Ministers further noted that the Angolan Armed Forces have recovered vast tracks of territory previously held by UNITA-SAVIMBI. The UNITA-SAVIMBI combatants are now scattered and can only resort to isolated acts of banditry. Hundreds of UNITA-SAVIMBI combatants are giving themselves up and the government has set up a fund to re-integrate them into society and the same is happening to thousands of civilians. The government has established full administration throughout the national territory and this has significantly contributed to an improvement in the free movement of people, goods and services.

8. The Ministers commended the Government of Angola for maintaining constant dialogue with civil society, political and religious leadership in its continued search for a durable political solution to the conflict in the country, in a spirit of national reconciliation.

9. Despite the sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council on UNITA-SAVIMBI, the Ministers noted that the rebel movement continues to enjoy assistance from various sources around and beyond the region. Ministers also expressed concern on the continued existence of offices, web sites, publications and other facilities in support of UNITA-SAVIMBI around the world. Ministers pledged their commitment to doing everything possible to ensure that national territories are not used for activities aimed at undermining the implementation of the United Nations Security Council sanctions against UNITA-SAVIMBI.

10. The Ministers observed that the Supplementary Report of the Monitoring Mechanism on Sanctions Against UNITA-SAVIMBI reveals the existence of a complex network through which UNITA-SAVIMBI continues to explore for and sell diamonds.

11. The Ministers called for the continuation and intensification of sanctions against Dr. Jonas Savimbi's UNITA movement in order to bring the rebel movement to dialogue and to compel it to comply with the provisions of the Lusaka Peace Protocol.

12. The Ministers strongly condemned the acts of terrorism perpetrated by Jonas Savimbi.

13. The Ministers also adopted the recommendations of the Principal Secretaries of the Inter-State Defence and Security Committee, which convened a consultative meeting in Maseru, Lesotho, on 20-21 November 2001 on the inclusion of UNITA-SAVIMBI on the list of terrorist organizations, as well as the strict fulfilment of the United Nations Security Council sanctions against UNITA-SAVIMBI concerning the freezing of the movement's bank accounts.

14. With regard to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Ministers noted that efforts to find a lasting solution to the DRC conflict are beginning to bear fruit and in this regard the second deployment of MONUC forces will start soon. With regard to the internal dialogue, the Ministers welcomed continued consultations between the government and other political actors in the DRC. However, the Ministers noted with concern that the Inter-Congolese Dialogue (ICD) which opened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 15 October 2001 had to be postponed primarily due to inadequate funding. The Ministers further welcomed the financial

contributions made by South Africa and Malawi towards the ICD and urged other SADC Member States to support the dialogue. The Ministers reiterated the SADC appeal to the international community to make financial pledges and actual disbursements of funds in order to ensure the success of the ICD, which holds the key to the peaceful resolution of the DRC conflict. The Ministers expressed the hope that the dialogue will resume at the end of January 2002 in South Africa as planned.

15. The Ministers expressed gratitude to the international cooperating partners which have consistently supported the Peace Agreement on the DRC and urged them to continue this support until peace and security returns to that country.

16. The Ministers noted the withdrawal of some military forces from the DRC and called upon all uninvited forces to withdraw without any further delay.

17. In the case of Lesotho, the Ministers noted with satisfaction that preparations are being finalized for elections to be held in Lesotho during the first half of 2002. All political parties have been working together with the Independent Electoral Commission and the Independent Political Authority to ensure free and fair elections in 2002.

18. The Ministers noted that in Zambia, tripartite (presidential, parliamentary and local government) elections are to take place in Zambia on 27 December 2001 during which a new President will be elected. They noted that the atmosphere in the run-up to the elections has been peaceful, thereby providing an environment conducive to free and fair elections. The Ministers noted that Zambia was working closely with Angola and the DRC to address the security situation along their common borders.

19. On Zimbabwe, the Ministers noted progress with regard to the Land Reform and Resettlement programme and the completion of the communal decongestion programme and that work on the commercial farms resettlement has started. The Ministers noted the Communiqué of the Ministerial Task Force on Developments in Zimbabwe which met on 10-11 December 2001 in Harare, Zimbabwe. Among other things, the Ministerial Task Force on Developments in Zimbabwe noted the following:

- that violence on the farms had reduced significantly and that the few reported incidents were being dealt with under the criminal justice system;
- that farming activities on both communal and commercial land had intensified; and
- the commitment by the government of Zimbabwe to free and fair elections scheduled to be held before the end of March 2002 including the instituting of mechanisms to guard against violence and ensure transparency.

20. The Ministers noted with appreciation Zimbabwe's commitment to invite and welcome observers during the pre-election campaign period as well as the voting process. They also noted that this was a clear indication of the government's intention to ensure free and fair elections.

21. The Ministers also reiterated SADC's opposition to sanctions against Zimbabwe as envisaged in the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Bill, which was passed recently by the United States Congress, and the European Parliament *smart sanctions* resolution. In this regard, the Ministers agreed to support

Zimbabwe in the proposed dialogue with the European Union under Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement.

22. On the issue of terrorism, the Ministers unanimously reiterated their unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its manifestations. The Ministers noted that several SADC Member States have been victims of terrorism, which has resulted in the loss of innocent lives, maiming of innocent civilians and massive destruction to social and economic infrastructures but also threaten the security of the nation States and the world community. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to employing all the resources at their disposal to fight the scourge of terrorism and ensure peace and security for the world.

23. The Ministers urged all Member States to ratify, accede to, where appropriate, and implement the 1999 Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and relevant United Nations conventions on terrorism as well as to enact appropriate national legislation to combat terrorism. The Ministers also directed the SADC Inter-State Defence and Security Committee to develop appropriate legal instruments and a plan of action to combat terrorism at the regional level.

24. The Ministers also produced a draft declaration on terrorism to be presented to the Summit for consideration and approval.

25. On the funding of the activities of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security, the Ministers approved the development of an Indicative Strategic Plan for the Organ (ISPO) which will clearly spell out the cost of the implementation of the activities of the Organ as well as a strategy for cooperation with regional and international cooperating partners.

26. During their stay in Angola, the Ministers paid a courtesy call on H.E. President Jose Eduardo dos Santos to whom they expressed their admiration and acknowledgement for the continued effort taken in search of peace and stability in Angola and the region as a whole.

27. The Ministers expressed sincere gratitude for the generous and warm hospitality extended to them during the meeting and the facilities provided by the Government of the Republic of Angola for the meeting.

Luanda, Republic of Angola
18 December 2001